

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-4, 8-11, and 14-18, in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A device for reading electronic mails, comprising:
a storing unit storing unread/already-read information corresponding to each of received electronic mails;
a holding unit ~~holding a state of "unread," which is determined on the basis of the unread/already-read information, of an electronic mail~~ fixing a state of "unread" of each electronic mail having an "unread" state based on the unread/already-read information at a predetermined timing, the fixed state of "unread" being not changed by reading the electronic mail with the fixed state of "unread" after the predetermined timing; and
a controller controlling a management of reading of the electronic mail with the fixed state of "unread" managed by said holding unit.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device according to claim 1, wherein said storing unit stores the state of "unread" or a state of "already-read" of a corresponding electronic mail as the unread/already-read information,
said holding unit holds a list with which each electronic mail with the state of "unread" stored in said storing unit at the predetermined timing is registered as the electronic mail with the fixed state of "unread"; and
said controller executes a process displaying a registered electronic mail in said list on a display according to a request for reading the registered electronic mail.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device according to claim 2, wherein said controller specifies the electronic mail with the fixed state of "unread" corresponding to the request by use of said list, and displays a body of the specified electronic mail on said display.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device according to claim 1, further comprising a display controller displaying a screen for searching the electronic mail with the fixed state of

"unread" managed by said holding unit on said display.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to claim 4, wherein said list holds information of the plurality of registered electronic mails in predetermined sort order, a pointer is set at any one of the information in said list, and said display controller displays the screen searching an electronic mail registered next to the registered electronic mail corresponding to the information pointed by the pointer and/or a previous electronic mail of the registered electronic mail corresponding to the information pointed by the pointer.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined timing is a time point of which reading the body of the electronic mail is requested.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device according to claim 2, wherein said list is deleted on the basis of a request for an end of reading the electronic mail.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A storage medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program executable by the computer to perform a method for causing the computer to function as a device for reading electronic mails, the method comprising:

storing unread/already-read information corresponding to each of received electronic mails;

holding-fixing a state of "unread," which is determined of an electronic mail having an "unread" state on the basis of the unread/already-read information, of an electronic mail setting a predetermined timing, the fixed state of "unread" being not changed by reading the electronic mail with the fixed state of "unread" after the predetermined timing; and

controlling a management of reading of the electronic mail with the ~~held~~ fixed state of "unread".

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage medium according to claim 8, wherein said storing stores the state of "unread" or a state of "already-read" of a corresponding electronic mail as the unread/already-read information,

said holding holds a list with which each electronic mail with the state of "unread" is registered as the electronic mail with the fixed state of "unread", and

said controlling executes a process displaying a registered electronic mail in said list on a display according to a request reading the registered electronic mail.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage medium according to claim 9, wherein said controlling specifies the electronic mail with the fixed state of "unread" corresponding to the request by use of said list, and displays a body of the specified electronic mail on said display.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage medium according to claim 8, further comprising displaying a screen for searching the electronic mail with the ~~held~~ fixed state of "unread" on said display.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage medium according to claim 11, wherein said list holds information of the plurality of registered electronic mails in predetermined sort order,

a pointer is set at any one of the information in said list, and

said displaying displays the screen searching an electronic mail registered next to the registered electronic mail corresponding to the information pointed by the pointer and/or a previous electronic mail of the registered electronic mail corresponding to the information pointed by the pointer.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The storage medium according to claim 8, wherein the predetermined timing is a time point of which reading the body of the electronic mail is requested.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The storage medium according to claim 9, wherein ~~said~~ said list is deleted on the basis of a request for an end of reading the electronic mail.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling reading electronic mails, comprising:

storing unread/already-read information corresponding to each of received electronic mails;

holding fixing a state of "unread," which is determined of an electronic mail having an "unread" state on the basis of the unread/already-read information, of an electronic mail at a predetermined timing, the fixed state of "unread" being not changed by reading the electronic

mail with the fixed state of "unread" after the predetermined timing; and

controlling a management of reading of the electronic mail with the ~~held-fixed~~ fixed state of "unread."

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 15, wherein said storing stores the state of "unread" or a state of "already-read" of a corresponding electronic mail as the unread/already-read information,

said holding holds a list with which each electronic mail with the state of "unread" at the predetermined timing is registered as the electronic mail with the fixed state of "unread", and

said controlling executes a process displaying a registered electronic mail in said list on a display according to a request reading the registered electronic mail.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 16, wherein said controlling specifies the electronic mail with the fixed state of "unread" corresponding to the request by use of said list, and displays a body of the specified electronic mail on said display.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 15, further comprising displaying a screen for searching the electronic mail with the held-fixed state of "unread" on said display.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 18, wherein said list holds information of the plurality of registered electronic mails in predetermined sort order, a pointer is set at any one of the information in said list, said displaying displays the screen searching an electronic mail registered next to the registered electronic mail corresponding to the information pointed by the pointer and/or a previous electronic mail of the registered electronic mail corresponding to the information pointed by the pointer.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 15, wherein the predetermined timing is a time point of which reading the body of the electronic mail is requested.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 16, deletes said list is deleted on the basis of a request for an end of reading the electronic mail.